

REMARKS

With this Reply, the pending claims are claims 23-28, 36-38, 41, 42, and 45-50. In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged Applicants' election with traverse of Group I, claims 23-28, 36-38, 41, and 42. The Examiner noted that claims 29-35, 39, 40, 43, and 44 are withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite. The Examiner allowed claims 23-28, 36-38, 41, and 42. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter.

Non-Elected Claims 29-35, 39, 40, 43, and 44

In order to obtain a Notice of Allowance for the elected, allowed and allowable claims, Applicants have canceled non-elected claims 29-35, 39, 40, 43, and 44 without prejudice.

Claim 1

As noted above, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under §112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite. The Examiner stated it is unclear how claim 1 substantively differs from claim 23. As shown above, Applicants have canceled claim 1 without prejudice, thereby mooting the Examiner's § 112 rejection of this claim.

New Claims 45-50

As shown above, Applicants have added new claims 45-50. Independent claim 45 is directed to a method for manufacturing a green tire. This claim includes the limitations of allowed claim 23, in addition to limitations of "preparing a carcass structure;" "torically shaping the carcass structure;" "preparing a belt structure;" "arranging the belt structure as a crown around the carcass structure torically shaped;"

and "wrapping a tread around the belt structure." Dependent claims 46-50 generally track the language of allowed claims 24-28, respectively.

No new matter has been added by new claims 45-50. Support for these claims may be found in the specification at, for example, page 1, lines 13-19; page 2, lines 21-26; and page 26, lines 18-22.

Based on at least the same reasons that claims 23-28 were allowed, Applicants submit that new claims 45-50 are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

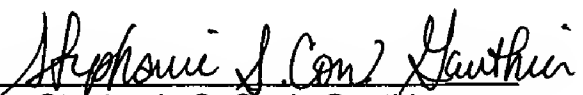
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims, namely, claims 23-28, 36-38, 41, 42, and 45-50.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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